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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9259

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SENSITIVE SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/INS HAITI EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE WHA/CAR FOR V DE PIRRO IO/UNP FOR NARANJO AND GARUCKIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>PGOV PREL IN HA</u>
SUBJECT: INDIAN SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL HAITI RESPONSE

REF: A. SECSTATE 06918

¶B. NEW DELHI 00103

¶C. SECSTATE 07504

1D. SECSTATE 07937

- 11. (U) Minister of State for External Affairs, Shashi Tharoor, made an unscheduled visit to Port-au-Prince on January 24 after official visits to Colombia, Peru, and Dominican Republic. During his meetings with Dominican President Fernandez and Foreign Minister Morales. President Fernandez invited India to participate in the Haiti Reconstrution Conference to be held in Santo Domingo in April.
- 12. (U) While in Haiti, Tharoor who formerly served as UN Undersecretary General - met with Haiti's President Rene Garcia Preval and members of the Indian community living there. He laid a wreath at the former headquarters of the UN mission and praised the Indian contingent's two doctors who had treated 500 patients for trauma injuries after the earthquake. India's contingent within the UN Haiti mission consists of over 150 officers and 56 civilians supporting the UN mission, according to press reporting.
- 13. (SBU) Post delivered reftel A talking points to MEA's Latin America and Caribbean desk January 25, but MEA officials offered no substantive reply.
- 14. (U) Comment: Indian press reports indicate that India's pledge for immediate emergency donation to Haiti totals USD \$6 million, but our MEA contacts on January 19 told us India had pledged USD \$1 million plus another USD \$4 million for a total of USD \$5 million. Post will follow up with MEA to confirm actual amount pledged and whether India will participate in the April conference in Santo Domingo. comment.

ROEMER